Lotto MAX
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INTERRACIAL COUPLE TARGETED IN STRING OF RACIST ATTACKS {page 3}

IN SEQUINS
HOW TO SAVE THE HOLIDAY SPARKLE
{page 22}

TORONTO metro®
Thursday, December 29, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Justin's. Game face

▶ Justin Bieber, wearing a purple Raptors cap, takes in an eyeful at the Raptors home opener last night. During a timeout, he took a long jump shot that bounced off the glass.

CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY

Biebs' love can't help Raptors win

Despite a little extra star power from the Biebs at the Air Canada Centre Wednesday evening, the Raptors lost their first home game of the season to the Indiana Pacers by a score of 90-85. **Story, page 29.**

RIDE check Twitter tips cause upset

Tweeting or otherwise broadcasting RIDE locations is not illegal: Const. Scott Mills

Roadside breathalyzer blitzes are nobody's idea of a super-fun holiday activity.

But a firestorm has erupted on Twitter in recent days over the legality and morality of tweeting police RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) stop locations, thanks to a handful of Toronto-area social media users.

Tweeting in one corner: Aggregator feeds like @RIDELocationsTO, which collect and then rebroadcast information on where police are conducting drunk-driving spot checks.

Tweeting in the opposite corner: dismayed social media buffs such as Toronto police traffic Sgt. Tim Burrows.

"If you tweet a #RIDE location tonight, make sure you also apologize tomorrow to any families who lose a loved one to a drunk driver," he posted on Christmas Eve.

DUI blitz tweets

AGAINST:
▶ **@lewislehman:** I will tweet false #RIDE locs to catch more drunken killers. Already lost my brother that way

FOR:
▶ **@trevoralgar:** The Police want you to stop tweeting #RIDE locations. We want the Police to stop abusing their powers. #cantalwaysgetwhatyouwant

"They're called random spot checks for a reason," says Const. Scott Mills, the Toronto police's social media officer.

Tweeting RIDE locations "gives somebody the chance to avoid detection. The end result is we have another drunk driver on the road."

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Snow. Beach

▶ Despite getting hit with Toronto's first significant snowfall and a mean cold snap, people were still out in the Beaches doing their thing, walking their dogs or jogging.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Residents brave the season's first blast of winter

'Why are they doing this to us?'

Series of racist attacks on property driving Newmarket couple to put home up for sale

A string of racist vandalism against a black man and his white partner has shocked a collegial Newmarket neighbourhood and pushed a couple to the brink.

The latest of three incidents happened sometime between Christmas Eve night and early Christmas morning, according to York Regional Police.

Rita Brown, who along with her partner, Seun Oyinsan, moved into a home this summer on quiet suburban Hodgson Drive, discovered the N-word scratched on the hood of her car Christmas Day.

That came roughly three months after two other attacks on their home and vehicles. During the first, on Sept. 10, swastika-like markings were spray-painted on the couple's garage and their SUV was defaced with the N-word and acid thrown on the sides. Nails hammered into small pieces of wood were also left under their tires.

Got any tips?

- York police are asking anyone with information about this crime to speak to investigators by calling 866-876-5423, ext. 7141, or to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-tips.
- An anonymous tip can also be left at 1800222tips.com, or text a tip to CRIMES (274637) starting with the word YORK.

▶ Swastika-like markings are seen spray-painted on the garage door of Rita Brown and Seun Oyinsan, along with the N-word scratched onto their car.

Most alarmingly, Brown said, police received a message. She was told it said the couple wasn't wanted in the neighbourhood, called her a "whore" and threatened: "We will kill if necessary."

The second incident is believed to have occurred overnight between Sept. 16 and 17, according to police. Again, nails were left under the car tires and a racial epithet scratched into the paint.

Police installed a surveillance camera for a while, but failed to catch the perpetrators on camera.

Brown said Wednesday the "For Sale" sign will be going up.

"We want out as soon as we can get out," she said, adding of whoever is responsible: "Why are they doing this to us? It's not fair."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 news

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Google increased personnel in its Canadian offices by nearly 100% in 2011, and one executive hopes to see that pace maintained in 2012. More at metronews.ca/news

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Mayor setting his own schedule

Ford still a one-on-one type of guy He booked 209 meetings with residents between July and end of October

At 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 22, Mayor Rob Ford began his week by meeting with a Toronto resident.

He met with a second resident at 10:30 a.m., a third at 1:30 p.m., and a fourth at 2:30 p.m. Only at 4 p.m., according to his internal itinerary, did he hold a meeting with someone who works at city hall.

Aug. 22 was a typical summer day for an atypical mayor who often schedules his time as if he is still a humble local councillor. Between July and the end of October, Ford booked a remarkable 209 meetings with residents — about two per day.

The 209 figure is especially striking by contrast. Over the same period, Ford booked 15 meetings with other politicians, eight with corporate executives and organizations, and none with community groups or non-business advocacy groups.

As a councillor, Ford earned a reputation as a tenacious advocate for residents whose problems city employees had failed to solve. Darting around the city in his minivan, frantically working his cellphone, he prodded the municipal bureaucracy into action on dozens, perhaps hundreds, of occasions.

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Mayor Rob Ford's one-on-one approach to addressing the problems of his constituents has been met with a mixed reaction from fellow councillors.

In other cities

- Mayor Rob Ford's predecessors released an advance weekly schedule of public appearances. So do the mayors of New York, Chicago and other major U.S. cities. Ford's itinerary is accessible only through the freedom-of-information process.

Mixed reaction over Ford's use of time

Ford's insistence on continuing to help residents with small-scale problems is viewed by councillors across the political spectrum with a mixture of admiration and skepticism. Even Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday said he isn't sure whether Ford is using his time effectively.

"I just don't know," Holyday said. "If he's really able to help people, and getting results — and I'm sure that he must be, or he wouldn't continue doing it — then I guess it's an admirable thing to do."

Holyday also said that Ford had helped many residents feel better about their difficulties.

"A lot of these people are new Canadians, and they're from all walks of life, and I'm sure they all appreciate that, whether their complaint is solved or not, that someone listened to them," he said.

Coun. John Filion, a Ford critic, said the mayor should consider how he can help a larger group of people.

"I believe Rob, on a one-on-one basis, has a lot of compassion for people with problems. If he could try to re-channel that beyond individuals who seek his help to categories of people in society who need help, I think that would be a good thing."

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DEC. 23

LCBO posts single-day sales record

Thirsty customers pushed the LCBO to a record $51 million in sales two days before Christmas, continuing a holiday tradition of Dec. 23 being the biggest booze-buying day of the year.

The $51 million at the province's 622 liquor stores marked an increase of $3 million from the then-record $48 million in sales on Dec. 23, 2010, which was up from $42.5 million in the same day in 2009 and $42 million in 2008.

The only bigger sales day, and an all-time record — which LCBO bean counters dub an "extraordinary" event — was June 23, 2009, in the countdown to a possible strike when buyers decided to stock up on beer, wine and spirits to the tune of $55 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Taking home a bit less in 2012

Even without major tax hikes, Canadians' take-home pay will get a little lighter starting Jan. 1.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation says premium hikes for employment insurance and the Canada Pension Plan will collect an additional $306 per employee from workers and their employers in 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1.5 The year's biggest tax change is not on the personal side, but in the 1.5-percentage-point cut to the federal corporate rate to 15 per cent. Some provinces are also dropping the provincial rate on corporations to 10 per cent.

Fans pray for Biebs' family

Justin Bieber fans are awash with concern for the Canadian pop star's grandparents after learning the pair were in a car crash.

The hashtag #prayforjustinsgrandparents remained popular on Twitter throughout Wednesday afternoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man dies after stabbing in GTA

A man believed to be in his 20s has died after being stabbed in Mississauga Wednesday evening.

Peel emergency officials said the man suffered a "penetrating chest wound." The incident occurred at an apartment building on Hurontario Street.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Speculation follows fatal dive

Michael Ungar's death was sixth skydiving fatality at Southern California facility in the past 15 months ◗ Ontario man had 2,000 jumps to his credit

An experienced Canadian skydiver was likely attempting a risky landing manoeuvre just before he died near a California parachuting centre, but it was a move his Ontario employer said he had pulled off before.

Michael Ungar, of Aylmer, Ont., died Tuesday afternoon at Perris Valley Skydiving after landing hard at the Riverside County sport parachuting base about 113 kilometres southeast of Los Angeles.

Officials said Wednesday Ungar was injured during a difficult high-speed aerial manoeuvre and landed in a shallow pond at 2:01 p.m.

His parachute was open and he may have been attempting an aggressive "swooping" manoeuvre involving a high-speed dive to skim over the ground before landing. The move was one the 32-year-old Canadian had attempted many times before and was hoping to carry out at competition level one day, said Tim Grech, owner of the Niagara Skydive Centre, in southern Ontario, where Ungar had worked for two seasons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FACEBOOK.COM

▶ Experienced skydiver Michael Ungar died Tuesday after a hard landing at a facility in Southern California. He's pictured here, top, in a staff photo at the Niagara Skydive Centre in Dunnville, Ont.

Tough year

It has been particularly difficult year at the Perris facility.

- In April, two skydivers collided, killing Jacob Jensen, 32, of Denmark. The other man survived critical injuries.
- In March, two skydivers were killed when their parachutes deflated and they fell 300 feet.
- In February, an Australian woman, 41, died after failing to open a backup chute.
- In September 2010, a 51-year-old Russian man died after a solo jump. The man's body was not found until two months later by a farmer plowing a field.
- There have been 14 deaths at the Perris Valley Airport since 2000.

Grenada probes Toronto man's death

The death of a Toronto carpenter who clashed with police while visiting his homeland of Grenada for Christmas has drawn the attention of that country's government and touched off an official investigation.

Oscar Bartholomew, 39, died in hospital on the Caribbean island Tuesday, 24 hours after being taken into custody.

Family members have accused officers of beating Bartholomew after he mistook a plainclothes female police officer for a friend and hugged her, lifting her off the ground while in front of a police station.

Bartholomew, his wife and a cousin had stopped at the station on Monday because his wife needed to use the bathroom, his aunt Josephine de Souza said in a telephone interview.

Police dispute that account, saying Bartholomew was arrested after assaulting an officer. The female officer was in uniform when she came into contact with Bartholomew, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Iran, U.S. tensions rise after oil-passage threats

The U.S. warned Iran on Wednesday it will not tolerate any disruption of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz after Iran threatened to choke off the vital Persian Gulf oil transport route if Washington imposes sanctions targeting its crude exports.

The increasingly heated exchange raises new tensions in a standoff that has the potential to spark military reprisals and propel oil prices to levels that could batter a global economy already grappling with a European debt crisis.

Iran's navy chief boasted Wednesday that it would be "very easy" for his country's forces to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the passage at the mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a sixth of the world's oil passes daily. It was the second such warning by Iran in two days.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian troops kill more protesters: Activists

Arab League monitors spent a second day in the Syrian city of Homs Wednesday gathering accounts about the government's crackdown on dissent as troops in nearby Hama opened fire on thousands of unarmed protesters and killed at least six, according to activists.

Though President Bashar Assad's regime has made some concessions to the observers, including the release of nearly 800 prisoners on Wednesday, the military at the same time is pressing ahead with a violent campaign to put down mostly peaceful protests.

Arab League

The 60 Arab League monitors — the first Syria has allowed in during the nine-month anti-government uprising — are supposed to be ensuring the regime is complying with terms of a plan to end the crackdown on protests. The United Nations says more than 5,000 people have been killed in Syria since March.

Activists said at least 39 people have been killed in the two days since the monitors began work.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea's next leader heads elaborate funeral

Tens of thousands of citizens wail and stamp their feet in grief for Kim Jong-il Scenes show the personality cult built around former leader

KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Military officers cry during a funeral procession for the late leader Kim Jong-il, in Pyongyang Wednesday. Inset: Kim Jong-un salutes beside the hearse carrying the body of his late father.

Kim Jong-un escorted his father's hearse in an elaborate state funeral on a bitter, snowy day Wednesday.

Son and successor was head mourner on the grey day in Pyongyang, walking with one hand on the black hearse that carried his father's coffin on its roof, his other hand raised in salute, his head bowed against the wind.

At the end of the two-and-a-half-hour procession, rifles fired 21 times as Kim Jong-un stood flanked by the top party and military officials who are expected to be his inner circle of advisers.

Kim then saluted again as goose-stepping soldiers carrying flags and rifles marched by.

Although analysts say Kim Jong-un is on the path toward cementing his power, and all moves in North Korea so far — from titles giving him power over the ruling party and military and his leading position in the funeral procession — point in that direction, his age and inexperience leave questions about Kim's long-term prospects.

"How can the sky not cry? The people ... are all crying tears of blood."

WEEPING SOLDIER SPEAKING TO STATE TV

Whereas his father was groomed for power for 20 years before taking over, the younger Kim has had only about two years.

Kim Jong-il — who led with absolute power after his father Kim Il-sung's death in 1994, through a famine that killed hundreds of thousands and the pursuit of nuclear and missile programs — died of a heart attack Dec. 17 at age 69.

A large challenge for North Korea's propaganda apparatus will be "to counter the public's perception that the new leader is a spoiled child of privilege," said Brian Myers, an expert on North Korean propaganda at Dongseo University in Busan, South Korea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Meadowvale Town Centre
Square One
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
153 Lakeshore Rd. E
6325 Dixie Rd., Unit 1
3105 Dundas St. W, Unit 102
7955 Financial Dr., Unit B
808 Britannia Rd. W, Unit 2
25 Watline Ave., Unit 10
7205 Goreway Dr.
NEWMARKET
16715 Yonge St.
NORTH YORK
Peanut Plaza
Sheridan Mall
1905 Avenue Rd.
4367 Steeles Ave. W
149C Ravel Rd.
Fairview Mall
4905 Yonge St.
5815 Yonge St.
3111 Dufferin St.
3040 Don Mills Rd., Unit 17B
OAKVILLE
1027 Speers Rd., Unit 22
RioCentre Oakville
478 Dundas St. W, Unit 7
OSHAWA
Taunton Harmony Plaza
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
PICKERING
Pickering Power Centre
Pickering Town Centre
611 Kingston Rd.
RICHMOND HILL
9196 Yonge St.
1480 Major Mackenzie Dr. E
10 West Pearce St., Bldg. B
Hillcrest Mall
9350 Yonge St.
Times Square Mall
SCARBOROUGH
Woodside Square
1571 Sandhurst Circle, Unit 502K
5095 Sheppard Ave. E
1900 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit E5A
3300 McNicoll Ave.
1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
411 Kennedy Rd.
3495 Lawrence Ave.
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
5661 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 5
19 Milliken Blvd., Unit U
THORNHILL
31 Disera Dr., Unit 140
Promenade Mall
Shops on Steeles
6236 Yonge St.
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Dragon City Mall
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Gerrard Square
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1461 Dundas St. W
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272 Danforth Ave.
471 Eglinton Ave. W
662 King St. W, Unit 2
939 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 106
154 University Ave., Unit 101
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Agency draws catcalls after death

Yowling mad

- **Word of Daniel Dockery's** search for Scruffy brought an outpouring of support, with more than 150 people offering him financial help, new kittens and free veterinary services.
- **Phoenix residents also** expressed outrage on the Humane Society's Facebook page, which was flooded with messages from people threatening to pull donations. "Shame on you!" several of them wrote.

Some outraged residents of Phoenix are threatening to pull their support for the Humane Society after the beloved cat of a recovering heroin addict was put to death mere hours after he brought her in for treatment.

Reports say Daniel Dockery's nine-month-old cat, Scruffy, was put down because he couldn't immediately pay $400 for its care.

Dockery said he reluctantly surrendered the cat on Dec. 8 after staff refused to take a credit card from his mother over the phone or wait 24 hours for her to wire him cash. He searched for the cat for three weeks at agency shelters but learned Tuesday that she was killed a few hours after he brought her in.

"Now I've got to think about how I failed that beautiful animal," Dockery said. "That's so wrong. There was no reason for her not to be treated."

The Humane Society said it hadn't intended to kill Scruffy and is reviewing its credit-card policy because of what happened.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERNAT ARMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Armenian and Greek Orthodox clergymen scuffle in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem during a turf war on Wednesday.

Brooms and shouts fly in Bethlehem church brawl

Not the first time clerics have fought over sacred turf

The annual cleaning of one of Christianity's holiest churches descended into a brawl on Wednesday, as dozens of monks feuding over space at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem battled each other with brooms until police broke it up.

The ancient church, built over the site where Jesus is believed to have been born, is shared by three denominations: Roman Catholics, Armenians and Greek Orthodox. The fight erupted between Greek and Armenian clergy, with both sides accusing the other of encroaching on parts of the church to which they lay claim. Some shouted and hurled brooms.

Palestinian security forces rushed in to break up the melee, and no serious injuries were reported.

A fragile peace governs relations among the denominations, and to repair or clean a part of the church is to own it, according to accepted practice. That means that letting other sects clean part of the church could allow one to gain ground at another's expense. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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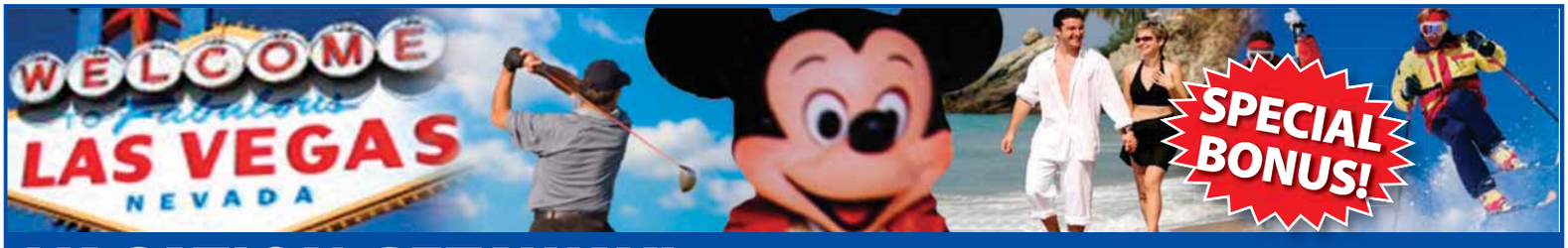

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Croc charges at worker

- **Animal steals lawn mower after lunging at keeper**
- **Had previously killed two crocodile girlfriends**

A giant saltwater crocodile named Elvis with an apparent affinity for household machinery charged at an Australian reptile park worker Wednesday before stealing his lawn mower.

Tim Faulkner, operations manager at the Australian Reptile Park, north of Sydney, was one of three workers tending to the lawn in Elvis' enclosure when he heard reptile keeper Billy Collett yelp. Faulkner looked up to see the five-metre, 500-kilogram crocodile lunging out of its lagoon at Collett, who warded the creature off with his mower.

"Before we knew it, the croc had the mower above his head," Faulkner said. "He got his jaws around the top of the mower and picked it up and took it underwater with him."

LIBBY BAIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Elvis, a giant saltwater crocodile, swims next to a lawn mower on Wednesday in Gosford, Australia.

The workers quickly left the enclosure.

Eventually, Faulkner realized he had no other choice but to go back for the mower.

Collett lured Elvis to the opposite end of the lagoon with a heaping helping of kangaroo meat while Faulkner plunged, fully-clothed, into the water. He escaped from the pool, unharmed and with mower in tow.

Despite having to give up the lawn mower, Elvis was clearly pleased with himself, Faulkner said. "He's beaten us today.... He's kingpin," Faulkner said. "He's going to be walking around with his chest puffed out all day."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First-time thief

- **Stolen.** Elvis has a history of crankiness and has lunged at staff before, though this is the first time he has stolen something from one of the workers.
- **Darwin.** The croc was initially captured in the northern Australian city of Darwin, where he had been attacking fishing boats.

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Germany leads G7 economies: BMO

Canada sits at No. 2 U.S. at No. 6

Canada's economy performed relatively well last year, but not enough to displace Germany as the top country in the Group of Seven big industrial nations, the Bank of Montreal says.

The chartered bank's annual report card for economic performance puts Canada slightly ahead of where it stood in 2010 cumulatively on five benchmarks, including unemployment and government deficits.

But the combined score of 81.6 is well back of Germany's 89.2 out of a maximum 100. The scorecard suggests that the Harper government's contention that Canada leads the G7 in economic performance is somewhat of an exaggeration. "No. 2 is OK," said economist Benjamin Retizes. "We've been consistently in the upper echelons in the G7."

Surprisingly, the U.S. is second last, mostly due to its high unemployment rate and budgetary deficit. Italy, with the sovereign debt crisis, trails the group.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tit for tat

- **While Canada scores higher than the G7 average,** exporting powerhouse Germany tops Canada in four of five major categories — jobless rate, inflation, government fiscal health and the current account balance with the rest of the world.
- **In the fifth category** — credit rating — the two countries are tied with the top AAA grade.

▶ Pedestrians pass a Kmart location in New York.

FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Striving to stay open

Sears Canada said Wednesday it isn't looking to close stores, but wants to improve the ones it has. It made the comment after Sears Holdings Corp., the American parent company of Sears and Kmart department stores, announced it will close 100 to 120 stores after a sluggish holiday season.

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		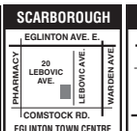	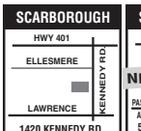		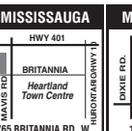	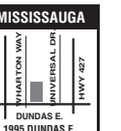
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						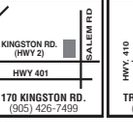	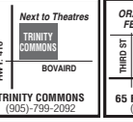	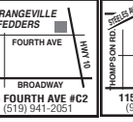	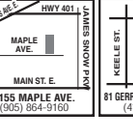	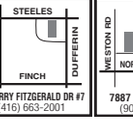	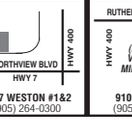	
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2001 AUDIO VIDEO

THERE IS NO HOLLYWOOD IN A NEW YEAR'S HANGOVER

HE SAYS ...

METRO

Ah, New Year's. The celebration where the annual tradition of pledging to better yourself in the coming months gets highjacked on the first day by the annual tradition of drinking your weight in cocktails.

All that well-meaning talk of getting your life in order goes out the window as you lie in a spinning bed on Jan. 1. Your head feels like Nickleback is inside it performing a Ke$ha song on repeat, and there's enough cotton on your tongue to make a new Christmas sweater.

Screw the next 364 days of the year. The only self-improvement you want is something to hold back your hair.

New Year's only has two settings — dull and disappointing, or drunk and disappointing — so if you're opting for No. 2 here's my special guide to hangovers.

What is a hangover?

Despite what the movies might teach you, hangovers aren't all fun times like finding a tiger in your room or getting attacked by Mike Tyson. In reality, sometimes they're no fun at all.

"If you do end up hungover, remember that coffee is a miracle cure."

Hangovers are associated with a variety of symptoms, including dehydration, fatigue, spinning rooms, grease infatuation, blanket cocoon syndrome (or BCS), an ability to feel individual photons of sunlight as if they were daggers and an uncontrollable urge to watch men's TV marathons about high-speed police chases in the southern states.

It's all because heavy drinking causes a complex chemical reaction that looks like this:

BEER14 + Ch-U-MP = H-EADA-CH-E (X) 100

Of course, this is an oversimplification and leaves out such important steps in the reaction as drunk texting and falling asleep while still wearing your boots.

How do I avoid a hangover?

You could follow your own advice from the last time you were hungover and "never drink ever again," but we all know that's an idle promise like "I'll get you on the way back, buddy" or "I will not cut city services."

So, as a pre-emptive measure, I recommend you drink two drinks fewer than your friends have drunk so far. This will serve to remind you just how annoying you're about to become, thereby slowing your intake.

If you do end up hungover, remember that coffee is a miracle cure. Observe this test subject:

BEFORE: Gblre zrmgle bllcrgk flr plyin coffee.

AFTER: GBLRE ZRMGLE BLLCRGK FLR PLYIN HUNGOVER!

As you can see, coffee takes a person with a hangover and makes them a wide-awake person with a hangover. Same goes for showers (clean and hungover) and magnetic bracelets (stupid and hungover).

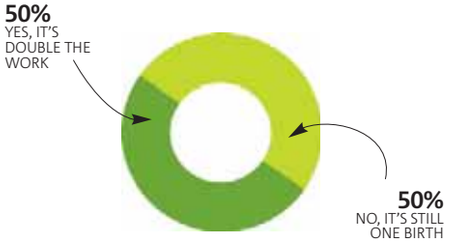
So, really, the only way to cure a hangover is to not get one. So drink less. For that to happen, you'll have to get your life in order and become a better person.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should parents of twins be given double time for parental leave?



Local tweets

- **@JoeyVongzaa:** Raptors home opener .. Toronto to stand up !
- **@KiyokoVeit7236:** I gotta say, a concert audience in Barrie are much more fun than Toronto!
- **@foreverdino:** Are the Toronto raptors on twitter? I need to hit them up on how awful their cheerleaders are.
- **@jesswroblewski:** Just saw a story on @globalnewsto about people tweeting the locations of #Toronto #RIDE programs. I agree with the @TorontoPolice. Shameful.
- **@gibble_gabble:** Toronto mayor Rob Ford, better call in the calvary. What with AN INCH OF SNOW. #Frostysnowjob
- **@ASewciaLife:** In Toronto today, forgot how much I love this city!
- **@ClariSussette:** Heading to toronto to shoot a movie! #manny's
- **@DB3Contracting:** Great to see Basketball back in Toronto! Go Raptors Go!!!
- **@lynchonsports:** Back in Toronto.....winter jacket required !
- **@mmgarza:** Oh, Toronto. I love how my phone and debit card work in you.
- **@Maya_Nichole:** I Know My Soul Mate Is In Toronto Right Now.

Daily Zoom

KURT WENNER/REX FEATURES

3-D paint makes good street food

LONDON. This giant picnic in the London district of Islington is a feast for your eyes only. This piece of 3-D art is served up by former NASA space illustrator Kurt Wenner, who has met fame for his innovative anamorphic or illusionistic street painting. A new book on his art, spanning a 25-year career, has been released. MWN

"The pieces look real because they are calculated to be mathematically accurate."

KURT WENNER, 3-D STREET ARTIST

Playing with perspective

TIME & SCALE. Wenner claims to have conjured up a new "hyperbolic perspective" geometry that "combines a logical use of linear perspective with a projection outward from the human eye." Using pastels, he can take up to ten days to complete his drawings, one of his largest having a dimension of 22 metres by 22 metres. MWN

metro

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CONTRIBUTED

▶ Jake Epstein is no American Idiot but he is a Green Day fan and now stars in the stage adaptation of the classic album.

Awakening to an idiot

A stroke of luck found Jake Epstein in the Toronto production of Green Day's American Idiot

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

To say that Jake Epstein was in the right place at the right time is a massive understatement. The Toronto actor was performing in a touring production of Spring Awakening when the show's director Michael Mayer announced his intention to create a stage version of Green Day's 2004 album, American Idiot.

"He was telling us about it right from the very beginning," says Epstein. "It just sounded crazy that it would work."

Mayer shopped the show in Berkley, Calif., and bussed the cast of Spring Awakening, including Epstein, up from San Jose to watch.

"As a Green Day fan I was a bit skeptical," he says. "Knowing the director, I knew he'd do something really interesting with it. It wouldn't be a cheesy show — it would be a piece of art."

Mayer's adaptation expands on Green Day's story of a young man who moves to the city and falls in love and into a world of drugs. Mayer's has three characters trying to break out of suburbia — one joins the army, one falls into drugs and a third, Will, who Epstein plays, stays behind with his pregnant girlfriend. "It expanded the original idea on the album to a punk opera story."

After Spring Awakening, Epstein relocated to Los Angeles where he spent several months looking for work.

"I was living on my own and spent a bunch of months waiting for a phone call to audition for something or go out and do anything," he recalls. It was during this period that the audition for American Idiot's touring cast came along and his mental anguish found a welcome home in the show. "I was definitely feeling on the brink of losing it and I needed an outlet," he says. "I had this audition for this show that celebrated all of your rage."

Green Day's American Idiot is running until Jan. 15 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, (5040 Yonge St. $62-$180.)

Green Day

American Idiot, the album, almost never happened

▶ **The story:** In 2003, Green Day began work on what would become their seventh album with longtime producer Rob Cavallo. However, the master-tapes for the record, that was to be called Cigarettes and Valentines, were stolen and the band were forced to start from scratch. Thankfully the songs weren't the best and they went back at it.

2 scene

Screen tests

It took Rooney Mara two and a half months and five screen tests to land the sought-after role of Lisbeth Salander in The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo. She beat out Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, and Carey Mulligan, among others.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Even Kim lasted longer

Sinead O'Connor unties the knot 16 days after ceremony Failed nuptials blamed on groom's family

A statement on Sinead O'Connor's website says her brief marriage to therapist Barry Herridge has amicably come to a conclusion.

The statement on sineadoconnor.com says "the marriage was 16 days. We lived together for 7 days only. Until Xmas eve."

The statement says "from the moment myself and my husband got together ... there was intense pressure placed upon him by certain people in his life, not to be involved with me."

She adds: "As my good friend said, 'well, at least you got married in Vegas in a pink Cadillac! Can't get more Rock n Roll than that.'"

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sinead O'Connor

Roman Szendrey, who maintains the singer's site, told The Associated Press by phone Wednesday the report is accurate and was in fact personally posted by O'Connor herself.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McConaughey puts a ring on it

42-year-old actor engaged to mother of his children

Matthew McConaughey is engaged to marry his longtime girlfriend, Camila Alves.

The 42-year-old actor proposed to the Brazilian model on Christmas Day. He announced the move in a tweet that included a photo of the couple kissing and read, "just asked camila to marry me, merry Christmas."

McConaughey's publicist confirmed the engagement Tuesday.

McConaughey and Alves have two children together, son Levi and daughter Vida.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Camila Alves and Matthew McConaughey

His film credits include We Are Marshall, Tropic Thunder and The Lincoln Lawyer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heavy D's death natural: Coroner

The Los Angeles coroner's office announced Jamaican-born rapper Heavy D died of natural causes.

The self-proclaimed "overweight lover" of hip hop, who became one of rap's top hit makers with a combination of humour and positivity, collapsed outside his Beverly Hills home on Nov. 8. The 44-year-old rapper, whose real name was Dwight Errington, died later at a hospital.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Heavy D

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Famous chimp dies

A Florida animal sanctuary says Cheetah, the chimpanzee from the Tarzan movies of the early 1930s, has died at age 80.

The Suncoast Primate Sanctuary in Palm Harbor announced that Cheetah died Dec. 24 of kidney failure. Sanctuary outreach director Debbie Cobb told The Tampa Tribune on Wednesday that Cheetah was outgoing and liked to see people laugh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2011 a box office flop

Many of the year's projected big-earners bit the big one But don't fear, the future of film looks fabulous

An Avatar hangover accounted for Hollywood's dismal showing early this year, when revenues lagged far behind 2010 receipts that had been inflated by the huge success of James Cameron's sci-fi sensation.

Just what has kept the movie business in the dumps the rest of 2011 is anyone's guess.

A solid summer lineup helped studios catch up to 2010, but ticket sales flattened again in the fall and have remained sluggish right into what was expected to be a terrific holiday season.

The result: projected domestic revenues for the year of $10.15 billion, down 4 per cent from 2010's, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com. Taking higher ticket prices into account, movie attendance is off even more, with an estimated 1.275 billion tickets sold, a 4.8 per cent decline and the smallest movie audience since 1995, when admissions totalled 1.26 billion.

"There were a lot of high-profile movies that just ended up being a little less than were hoped for," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for 20th Century Fox, whose sequel Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked has been part of an under-achieving lineup of family films for the holidays. "The fall was pretty dismal. There just weren't any real breakaway, wide-appeal films."

Big franchises still are knocking it out of the park. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2, the finale to J.K. Rowling's fantasy epic, was the year's biggest earner and the top-grossing film in the series at $381 million domestically and $1.3 billion worldwide. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coming soon

The 2012 film list looks colossal. Highlights include:

- **The superhero tales** The Dark Knight Rises, The Amazing Spider-Man and The Avengers
- **The animated features** The latest in the Ice Age and Madagascar franchises
- **Plus** Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones' Men in Black 3, Daniel Craig's new James Bond thriller Skyfall and Johnny Depp's vampire story Dark Shadows

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3 life

Style pick

Functional fabric

Perhaps you're one of the many adding a wicking shirt to your armour. The functional under layer that over the last few years has become a favourite of skiers, hikers, runners and other athletes is finding new fans in urbanites, who find a fabric that draws out perspiration, serves as insulation from wind and keeps body temperature stable has purposes beyond the outdoors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Uniqlo Heattech top

Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/life for the latest lifestyle news.

Layers of glitter on New Year's Eve can be stylishly spread throughout the year and beyond

Need a resolution? Save your sparkle!

New Year's Eve is an exception to most fashion rules: Your outfit can sparkle, your jewels can dazzle, your hair can glisten. You can wear a tiara, for goodness sake. It's a night when glitter is good, and the more the better.

But you don't want to be left with a shine hangover, either, so that means finding a way to reuse some of the splashier pieces in less showy ways over the next 12 months.

You might be marking another year on the calendar, but brightness and light is what keeps you looking youthful and your mood elevated, designer Elie Tahari says. You'll get more bang from your bling if you start off with white or at least colourful clothing instead of black, he explains.

"We are all looking for the same thing: light, truth and joy," he says. "Light and sparkle — all that comes from within, but what's on the outside is a reflection of the inside."

So, Tahari asks, why not a beaded bag or glitzy shoe with your every-day, maybe even tired, navy or black outfit? Or, better yet, a sequin skirt. There's no age restriction here, he says, just a playful attitude.

New Year's Eve is the excuse to test-drive an oversized, vintage-inspired statement necklace or chunky chain bracelet that mixes sparkle with tough-girl tarnished metal or spikes, suggests Blythe Harris, chief creative officer of Stella & Dot. After you've received compliments on the bold new look, you'll be more willing to wear it again, she says.

ELIE TAHARI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELIE TAHARI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Brightness and light is what keeps you looking young and your mood elevated, designer Elie Tahari says.

"We are all looking for the same thing: light, truth and joy. Light and sparkle — all that comes from within, but what's on the outside is a reflection of the inside."

ELIE TAHARI, DESIGNER

Break the Little Black Dress cycle and try a tuxedo jacket, cropped, slim pants, metallic high heels and dangling earrings dripping in fringed crystal, chains and cubic zirconia. "You can take some licence on New Year's that you can't other times, but you might like it," Harris says.

Stila makeup artist Sarah Lucero is a fan of shimmer, and she predicts it's a trend that will last for a while. It meshes with upcoming spring fashion trends, including colour blocking and garden prints, she says.

With makeup, you can layer subtle shine, mixing it with moisturizer as a skin illuminator or as a top coat over black or navy liquid liner, applied close to the lash line. Take full advantage of any romantic candlelight with glitter eye shadow right on the centre of the lower part of the lid, Lucero says.

TV's Glam Fairy Alexa Prisco will pile it on for a night on the town: a dab of glitter gloss in the middle of bright red lips, sparkle swiped in the hollow of the cheek, shiny legs thanks to a homemade cocktail of gold shimmer powder and body lotion.

The most successful looks all start with dewy, well-moisturized skin, she says, because the double-edged sword of shine is that it draws attention — indiscriminately to assets or blemishes.

"You're only as good as your canvas," Prisco declares.

Rose gold is a nice flattering metallic for almost every skin tone, whether it's in makeup, jewelry or other accessories, adds Lucero, who acts as Stila's director of education.

Mixed metals is the motto of Stella & Dot's Harris. A stylish, modern mashup would include pieces with beads, crystals and other embellishments, in a variety of textures, shapes and motifs.

Her tip is to find one common thread, such as reflective hematite, to tie them together but otherwise purposely go wild.

"I pretty much will buy anything that sparkles right now," says Alli Webb, founder of the Drybar chain of blow-dry studios. And on Dec. 31, she'll definitely plan a few extra minutes to primp.

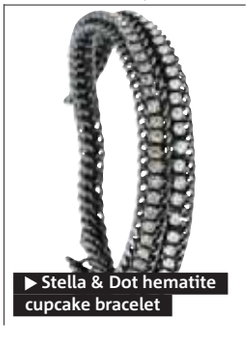
"On New Year's Eve, you want to look like the best version of you," Lucero agrees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STELLA & DOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Stella & Dot bardot spiral bangle

STELLA & DOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Stella & Dot hematite cupcake bracelet

Gimme, gimme, gimme a mane after midnight

Alli Webb, founder of the Drybar chain of blow-dry studios, is currently alternating between a glitter gel and beaded headbands and clips for clients who want a festive do. Some are even asking for tinsel to be threaded into the hair, giving a holiday twist to the feather trend so popular earlier this year.

Tip: The easiest "pizzazz," she says, is a loose bun with a sparkly headband, which makes you look dressed up in an instant. But if she has the time, Webb says it's worth it to do a braided updo and secure it with a crystal clip.

Prepare for a tangerine takeover

Bright, bold colour chosen as top palette choice for 2012 Hilfiger, Leiber borrow hue for spring collections

The world doesn't need more grey. What consumer products need is a jolt, a shot of energy and boldness, all of which comes from Tangerine Tango, the reddish-orange hue that Pantone announced as its top colour for 2012.

"There's the element of encouragement with orange, it's building on the ideas of courage and action, that we want to move on to better things," said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, the research division of Pantone Inc., which creates colour standards for the fashion, beauty and home industries.

"We have to look at everything in the world around us. It's not an arbitrary choice."
LEATRICE EISEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PANTONE COLOR INSTITUTE

The annual forecast for the next year's dominant colour takes into consideration both what Pantone thinks shoppers want and need. Those are influenced by the designer runways, fabric shows, news events, pop culture and consumer habits. "Part of what we do is look at the zeitgeist," Eiseman explained. "We have to look at everything in the world around us. It's not an arbitrary choice."

▶ Judith Leiber Jelly Bean Collection clutch.

For his spring collection, Tommy Hilfiger used the tangerine colour coupled with red, although it also complements navy and brown. He imagines men wearing the orange in a striped or paisley tie, or for women, as a colour for a purse or even a trenchcoat. It's a colour that will move seamlessly through the seasons.

Look for tangerine with red in the current resort collections for luxury accessory brand Judith Leiber, and it will continue as a top colour for spring, used in a stripe pattern with cobalt blue, fuchsia, gold and white dubbed Palm Beach.

At the mall-level chain Charming Charlie, which organizes displays by colour, tropical orange and hot pink will come together in February for the launch of a theme called Hotel Tropicana. Tangerine is the kind of colour that can change your mood in a minute, said general merchandise manager Kasia Romo, and retailers like that.

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Dream in style with this project

- **Headboards are lovely to have, but can be costly to buy**
- **Why not be a fabric maverick and make one yourself?**

DIY IDEAS

As the weather outside gets colder, it leaves more time for indoor projects.

With half a day's time, a drill, and a needle and thread, you can turn a piece of plywood into a plush and professional-looking fabric headboard.

This headboard project is taken from Run My Renovation, a show where homeowners allow a room in their home to be transformed according to an online voting process.

Hosts John DeSilvia and Joanie Dodds pull all the elements together to make an amazing room.

Mark and drill the plywood

Mark the centre point of your plywood and use a yardstick to draw a diagonal line across that point with a pencil.

Draw another diagonal line on the opposite side.

Continue the diagonal pattern, marking each point where two lines meet approximately 12 inches apart for the buttons.

Put on safety glasses and use a power drill with a medium bit to drill holes through the pencil-marked spots.

Arrange the fabric and batting

Choose your fabric of upholstery-weight and measure so it is at least six inches longer than the plywood on all sides.

Lay the fabric good side down on a sturdy work surface.

Cut the batting to the same size and lay it on top of the fabric.

Top those two layers with a same-size piece of thin batting foam. Centre your plywood evenly on top.

▶ A stylish headboard will frame your bed and improve the look of your bedroom.

Attach the fabric

Pull the foam, batting and fabric snugly over each corner of the wood and staple it.

Do the same to cover all the hard edges of the board.

Sew on the buttons

Select your buttons in a large size. Secure them to the board with a large needle and upholstery thread.

Hang it

Hang the board equi-distant from the centre of the bed.

Use short screws so the board doesn't tilt out from the wall.

Use a level and anchor if you don't have a wall stud available.

You now have a home-made fabric headboard that can be tailored to any bedroom in your home!

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New year, new look

Practical and cheap ways to give your place a facelift

We spoke to Michelle Workman, an interior designer to stars such as Jennifer Lopez and John Travolta, about a few easy ways to give your home a New Year facelift.

1. Kitchen cleanup

So you've splattered meat fat up the walls and your kitchen units are covered in grubby finger marks. Instead of ripping out the entire kitchen, Workman suggests painting the hardware in colours like dove grey or black lacquer to give it a fresh, new look.

2. Work in more colour

"The easiest thing to do is paint the walls in a bright colour like turquoise, emerald green or coral, all of which are cosy colours for winter," advises the designer. It's a low-cost way to completely transform a room. Also consider purchasing accessories that you can swap out according to your seasonal moods. Workman suggests Murano glass lamps, which can be easily found at second-hand stores, and accent coffee tables. "They can change the room's aesthetic," she adds.

3. Create an oasis in the bathroom

"It sounds clinical but I do like to see a lot of white in the bathroom — everyone wants their place to look clean," Workman says. "Now this sounds over-the-top, but it's worth looking for a chandelier because it's likely to be your one statement fitting," she says. It sounds decadent, but you can find affordable ones at flea markets.

"Consider using a sumptuous material to give your bed a nest-y feel."
INTERIOR DESIGNER MICHELLE WORKMAN

4. Embrace some upholstery

Reupholster your headboard in fabric to add a design change to your room. It's also nice and soft to lean against. "Consider using a sumptuous material to give your bed a nest-y feel," she explains. "The bedding is essential too," she says. Decorative pillows and throws make big statements with minimal effort. Rotate them based on the season, going for richer colours and heavier fabrics in winter and lighter fare in summer.

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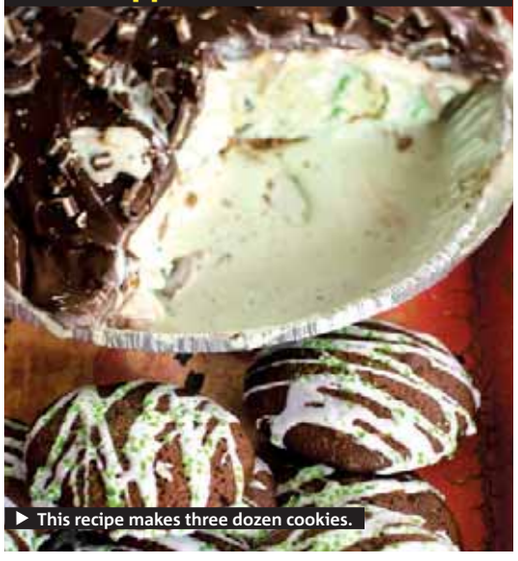
New cookie generation

These tasty treats have their origins in a Grasshopper Pie and the classic Italian Tiramisu

BOTH PHOTOS: MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grasshopper Cookies



This recipe makes three dozen cookies.

Grasshopper Cookies Preparation:

1. In bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In microwave-safe bowl, combine chocolate and butter. Heat on high for 2 mins., stirring every 20 seconds, until smooth and completely melted. Whisk in eggs, one at a time, then the brown and granulated sugars. Add 5 ml (1 tsp) of the peppermint extract.
2. Stir in flour mix, then chocolate mint candies. Refrigerate dough until completely chilled, about 2 hours.
3. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or spray with cooking spray.
4. Scoop cookie dough by tablespoonful onto prepared baking sheets, leaving 5 cm (2 inches) between for spreading. Bake for 12 mins.. Allow to cool on baking sheet 5 mins. before using spatula to transfer to rack to cool completely.
5. In bowl, whisk powdered sugar, milk or cream, and the remaining 5 ml (1 tsp) peppermint extract. Additional milk can be added if mix is too thick to drizzle. Drizzle icing over surface of cookies and immediately sprinkle with green sprinkles.
6. Allow icing to harden before storing in an airtight container between sheets of waxed paper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 325 ml (1 1/3 cup) all-purpose flour
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 375 ml (12 ounces) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 125 ml (1/2 cup or 1 stick) unsalted butter
- 4 eggs
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) each brown and granulated sugar
- 10 ml (2 tsp) peppermint extract, divided
- 130 gram (4.67-ounce) box Andes Creme de Menthe Thins candies, broken
- 250 ml (1 cup) powdered sugar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) milk
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) green spinkles

Bake just like Buddy

With more than 100 of his most sought-after recipes, including birthday and holiday cakes and other special theme designs, Buddy Valastro's recently released Baking With the Cake Boss book is a master course that culminates in the show-stopping cakes for which Carlo's Bake Shop is famous.

The star of TLC's Cake Boss, Valastro offers readers the same on-the-job education earned by everyone who comes to work at Carlo's Bake Shop, with some of Buddy's and the family's memories shared along the way. It builds organically from simple cookies and pastries to pies, flower-adorned cupcakes, and basic fondant cakes, to breathtaking cakes for every special occasion.

Included in Baking with the Cake Boss are recipes for Napoleons, Pumpkin Pie, Snowflake Winter Wonderland Cake, Seven-Layer Cookies, Chocolate Brownie Clusters, Red Velvet Cake and many others.

Tiramisu Drops

This recipe makes 40 cookies.

Tiramisu Drops Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In food processor, pulse almonds and granulated sugar until finely ground but not reduced to paste. Add butter and vanilla, then pulse to incorporate. Add espresso or coffee powder, salt and flour and pulse until a crumbly dough comes together.
3. Shape dough into 2.5-cm (1-inch) balls and place on prepared baking sheets. Using finger press indent into top of each cookie. Bake 10 to 12 mins., or until golden and firm. Allow to cool on the baking sheet.
4. When cookies are cool, in bowl stir mascarpone and 30 ml (2 tbsp) powdered sugar. Transfer mix to pastry bag or a zip-close plastic bag with the corner snipped off. Pipe dollop of filling into the indent of each cookie.
5. Sift remaining 15 ml (1 tbsp) of powdered sugar with the cocoa powder. Sift over tops of cookies. Decorate with shaved chocolate, if desired.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 250 ml (1 cup) slivered blanched almonds, lightly toasted
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) granulated sugar
- 175 ml (3/4 cup or 1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla extract
- 10 ml (2 tsp) instant espresso or coffee powder
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- 425 ml (1 3/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 250 ml (8-ounce) tub mascarpone cheese
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) powdered sugar, divided
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) cocoa powder
- Shaved chocolate, to decorate, if desired

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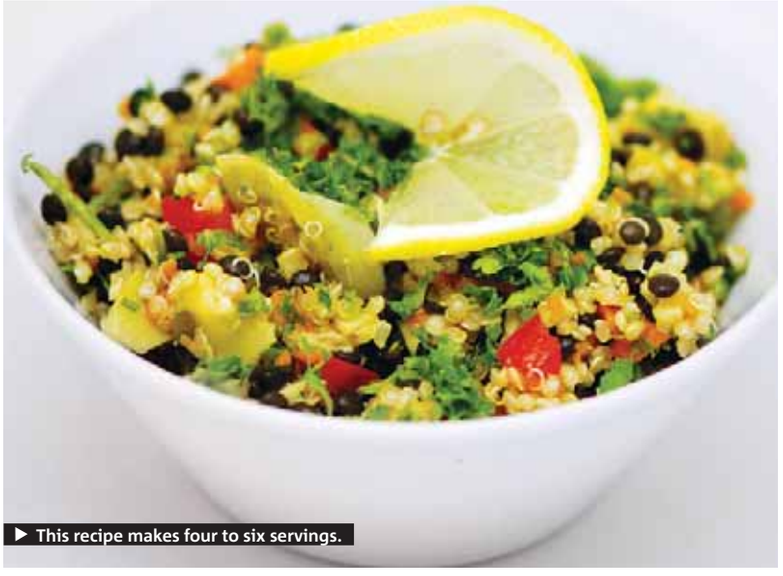
Natural goodness, gluten-free

Here's a recipe that represents food trends as we head to 2012 **Easy to make and fresh ingredients**

FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warm Beluga Lentil and Quinoa Pilaf



This recipe makes four to six servings.

Preparation:

1. In a medium saucepan, bring broth and water to a boil. Add lentils and boil, uncovered, for 20 to 25 minutes or until lentils are tender, but still hold their shape and are not too flimsy.
2. Drain; transfer to mixing bowl and toss thoroughly with 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the olive oil.
3. Meanwhile, in a heavy skillet over medium-high heat, warm 30 ml (2 tbsp) of remaining oil. Do not bring to a full boil.
4. Add onion, red pepper, celery, carrots and artichoke hearts; cook, stirring often, until tender, 8 to 10 minutes; add cooked quinoa and toss until warm, about 2 minutes.
5. Stir quinoa-vegetable mixture into lentils until thoroughly mixed.
6. Drizzle with remaining olive oil; stir in lemon juice, salt and pepper and toss with parsley. You can serve this dish warm or cold.

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) vegetable broth
- 500 ml (2 cups) water
- 250 ml (1 cup) beluga lentils
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) extra virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 small onion, finely diced
- 250 ml (1 cup) each finely diced red pepper, celery, carrots and artichoke hearts
- 500 ml (2 cups) cooked quinoa
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- Lemon juice, to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) finely chopped parsley

Tip:

Cooking quinoa is simple. In a medium saucepan, combine 500 ml (2 cups) water and 250 ml (1 cup) rinsed quinoa; cover and bring to a boil. Reduce to simmer and set timer for 12 minutes. Remove from heat; let stand, covered, for 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork and serve or use in recipe. Make sure to leave no leftovers.

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Accolades continue to rush in for Chan

A few words from the mouth of a rival may have defined Patrick Chan's magnificent season.

Daisuke Takahashi was asked after the short program at the world figure skating championships what it would take to catch the young Canadian, who had assembled a nearly insurmountable lead over his Japanese opponent.

"A miracle," Takahashi said simply.

Chan went on to capture his first world title in spectacular fashion, setting three world scoring records in the process in one of the most dominant victories ever in men's figure skating.

The victory in Moscow was the highlight of an undefeated season that earned the Toronto skater the Lionel Conacher Award as The Canadian Press male athlete of the year for 2011.

Chan garnered 102 points to run away with the award in balloting among sports editors and broadcasters across the country.

Tennis player Milos Raonic was second with 70 points ahead of UFC welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre (66), Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto (47), and skier Erik Guay (37).

At just 20 years of age — he turns 21 on New Year's Eve — Chan's breakthrough 2011 season leaves the impression he's only on the ascent of a lofty career.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OLEG NIKISHIN/EPSILON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

"To be rewarded for doing something that you've worked so hard to accomplish is like the icing on the cake."
PATRICK CHAN

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Indiana's Roy Hibbert and Danny Granger battle Toronto's Andrea Bargnani for a rebound in the first half at the Air Canada Centre Wednesday night.

Raptors can't keep pace in return to T.O.

Pacers spoil Toronto's home opener as DeRozan-led late surge falls short
Raptors lose home-openers in back-to-back years for first time since 2000

Danny Granger scored 21 points to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 90-85 victory over Toronto on Wednesday, spoiling the Raptors' first regular-season appearance at the Air Canada Centre in nearly nine months.

DeMar DeRozan scored 16 of his 22 points in a thrilling fourth quarter for Toronto, while Andrea Bargnani added 21 points.

Paul George added 18 points for the Pacers (2-0), while David West had 14, and Roy Hibbert notched 12.

The loss put a damper on a night billed as The Bounce is Back!, coming on the heels of the NBA lockout.

The Pacers led for most of the night, and by as much as 12 points in the third quarter before taking a 63-55 advantage into the fourth.

PACERS	RAPTORS
90	85

But the Raptors battled back to within two points with just over two minutes to play, thanks largely to the hard work of DeRozan, and to the delight of the capacity crowd of 19,800 red-clad fans. DeRozan drained five consecutive baskets — including a three-pointer — midway through the fourth to keep Toronto in the game. He then connected on a huge three, throwing up his arms in celebration, that was followed up with a driving layup and free throw by Bargnani that cut the Pacers' lead to 83-81.

But Granger launched a three with 1:14 left that clinched the win.

Jerryd Bayless added 13 points for the Raptors (1-1), who were coming off a 104-96 win versus the Cavaliers in their season-opener two days earlier in Cleveland.

The Raptors' home opener was played two months late, pushed back due to the NBA lockout. Despite the loss, the game was festive with fans wearing red T-shirts and waving white towels. A video message featured players thanking the fans for their patience through the labour dispute.

Jamaal Magloire, a Toronto native and off-season acquisition, took centre-court to address the crowd, thanking the Raptors for "bringing me back to the city I love and the city I'm from."

"I promise you, we've built up a lot more energy in the time we've been away from you all, and we're going to bring it night in, night out," Magloire added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Leafs preview

Toronto at Carolina
7 p.m.
TV: Leafs TV

The Maple Leafs (18-14-4) continue their road trip in Carolina (12-20-6). The Hurricanes have won their last two home games, but lost 4-2 in Pittsburgh on Tuesday. Justin Peters made 48 saves in his first start of the season as Carolina was outshot 52-18. With Jeff Skinner (concussion) on injured reserve, Tuomo Ruutu has taken the Hurricanes' goal-scoring lead. Ruutu has five goals in his last six games, raising his season total to 14. Eric Staal is a league-worst minus-22.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

IceDogs add snarl to Team Canada

OHL club ties record, sending four players to world juniors ‘We miss those guys a lot,’ says Niagara coach/GM

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Canadian forward Mark Stone celebrates his goal as the Czech Republic’s Marek Hrbas looks on. Canada won 5-0.

A pack of Niagara IceDogs have prominent roles on Canada’s team at the world junior hockey championship.

It’s common for major junior teams to have more than one player on Canada’s team, but four spots ties a record for the most from a club in a single year.

Forward Freddie Hamilton, his defenceman brother Dougie Hamilton, centre Ryan Strome and goaltender Mark Visentin are all representing the Ontario Hockey League club.

“We’re awfully proud all four of them made it and we feel real good about it,” IceDogs coach and general manager Marty Williamson said from St. Catharines.

The Windsor Spitfires (2010), the Kamloops Blazers (1996) and the Medicine Hat Tigers (1988) are the only Canadian Hockey League teams to put four players on one Canadian junior team.

Ryan Ellis, Taylor Hall, Adam Henrique and Greg Nemisz were Spitfires who took silver two years ago. Nolan Baumgartner, Hnat Domenichelli, Jason Holland and Jarome Iginla won gold representing the Blazers in ’96. Rob DiMaio, Trevor Linden, Scott McCrady and Mark Pederson were the Tigers who won gold for Canada in ’88.

Freddie Hamilton and Visentin, both 19, and 18-year-olds Dougie Hamilton and Strome are critical in Canada’s quest for gold.

Freddie Hamilton, a San Jose Sharks prospect, plays centre on the checking line. Dougie Hamilton, a first-round draft pick of the Boston Bruins, is one half of Canada’s top defensive pairing with Brandon Gormley.

Strome, the 2011 fifth overall selection by the New York Islanders, centres a dominant line with Jonathan Huberdeau and Mark Stone. Visentin, property of the Phoenix Coyotes, was Canadian coach Don Hay’s choice to start the opener versus Finland.

“It is kind of special because basically their names are in the forefront nonstop,” Williamson said.

An IceDogs home game Saturday against Guelph has been moved back an hour to 6 p.m. to accommodate fans who want to see both that game and the Canada-U.S. game on TV later, Williamson said.

While Williamson believes his players’ commitment will pay off in the long run, it’s a large chunk of talent to lose for the seven games the IceDogs will play before the four return.

The Hamiltons are first and second in team scoring, while Strome contributes over a point per game.

“They’re part of our penalty kill, our power play and obviously Vis being our No. 1 goalie, so it really does disrupt your team pretty good,” Williamson said. “But there’s nothing you could do about it.

“In the big picture, it really is a good thing. It’s going to help make us a lot stronger, and whether we lose a game or two because of it, so be it.”

The IceDogs won two of their first three games after their teammates joined the Canadian team. They were 19-12-3 heading into Wednesday’s game against Owen Sound.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada wins

Mark Scheifele of the Barrie Colts scored a pair of goals to lead Canada to a 5-0 win over the Czech Republic on Wednesday.

- Mark Stone of the Brandon Wheat Kings, Ryan Strome of the Niagara IceDogs and Brett Connolly of the NHL’s Tampa Bay Lightning also scored for Canada, who topped Pool B at 2-0.
- Scott Wedgewood of the Plymouth Whalers got his first start of the tournament, stopping 26 shots for the shutout. Wedgewood also picked up an assist on Canada’s go-ahead goal late in the second period.
- Canada faces Denmark (0-2) on Thursday.

Changes to TTC Commuter Parking

Effective January 1, 2012 – Free parking after 3pm will no longer be available.

There will be a charge of $2 between 3pm and 2am, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays).

Affected Lots

- Downsview
- Ellesmere
- Finch - East, West
- Islington - Main
- Kennedy - East, North, North Service Rd, South
- Kipling - North, South, Subway Cres.
- Lawrence East
- Victoria Park
- Warden - North, South
- Wilson - Main, South, Transit Rd, West

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Sports in pictures

PHOTOS
1. PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES
2. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES
3. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES
4. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

1 The New York Yankees say star third baseman Alex Rodriguez is fine after having special treatment on his right knee and left shoulder in Germany earlier this month. The 36-year-old Rodriguez had plasma-rich platelet injections following a recommendation from Kobe Bryant.

2 Tony Romo expects to take part in Sunday night's showdown with the New York Giants with the NFC East title on the line. The Dallas Cowboys quarterback was limited in practice Wednesday because of his still-swollen bruised right hand, though he did throw several passes.

3 The Oakland Athletics traded all-star closer Andrew Bailey and outfielder Ryan Sweeney to the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday for outfielder Josh Reddick and prospects Miles Head and Raul Alcantara.

4 Linebacker Jason Taylor says he'll retire after this season, his 15th in the NFL and his 13th with the Miami Dolphins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crosby 'having some symptoms'

The Pittsburgh Penguins finally acknowledged what has seemed obvious for weeks: Sidney Crosby is having concussion symptoms.

Crosby is exercising lightly, much as he did during his nearly 11-month concussion layoff earlier this year, and there is no timetable for his return. It is almost the same scenario the Penguins have dealt with for nearly a year, except for the brief two-week window in which Crosby returned earlier this season.

"He's still having some symptoms," Penguins coach Dan Bylsma said Wednesday following an off-day practice at the team's suburban practice rink.

Bylsma did not say whether Crosby has a new concussion or if he is experiencing a carryover from the vestibular concussion that sidelined the NHL's highest-profile player from Jan. 6 until Nov. 21.

While Bylsma offered no other details, this was the first time since Crosby last played on Dec. 5 against Boston that the Penguins confirmed their superstar centre is dealing again with concussion-related problems.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keeping you in the know and on the GO

Changes to GO Bus services starting December 31, 2011.

More trips on some routes, changes and earlier departures on some trips.

Affected GO Bus routes:

LAKESHORE WEST
15 – McMaster University
16 – Hamilton QEW

MILTON
20 – Milton-Oakville
21 – Milton
25 – Waterloo
27 – Milton Hwy 401

KITCHENER
30 – Kitchener/Bramalea
31 – Georgetown
39 – Guelph/Bramalea

HWY. 407 WEST
29 – University of Guelph
46 – Hwy 407 West
47 – Oakville/York University
48 – Guelph/York University

HWY. 407EAST
51 – Hwy 407 East
52 – Oshawa/York University
54 – Markham/York University

BARRIE
65 – Barrie
68 – Barrie/Newmarket
66 – Newmarket Hwy. 400

STOUFFVILLE
71 – Stouffville

LAKESHORE EAST
81 – Port Perry
88 – Peterborough
90 & 91 – Newcastle/Oshawa
93 – Durham College/UOIT
94 – Oshawa Hwy 2

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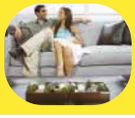

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	35	22	9	1	3	103	76	48	11-3-0-2	11-6-1-1	7-3-0-0	L1
d-Boston	33	23	9	0	1	119	63	47	13-6-0-1	10-3-0-0	8-2-0-0	W6
d-Florida	37	19	11	3	4	99	101	45	9-3-1-4	10-8-2-0	4-3-2-1	W1
Philadelphia	35	21	10	2	2	119	104	46	8-5-1-1	13-5-1-1	6-3-0-1	L2
Pittsburgh	36	21	11	2	2	118	93	46	11-4-2-0	10-7-0-2	6-4-0-0	W4
New Jersey	36	20	15	0	1	100	104	41	9-6-0-1	11-9-0-0	7-3-0-0	W1
Toronto	36	18	14	2	2	113	118	40	8-5-2-2	10-9-0-0	4-4-2-0	L1
Winnipeg	36	17	14	3	2	100	105	39	12-6-0-1	5-8-3-1	6-3-0-1	W1
Ottawa	37	17	15	3	2	113	128	39	10-8-0-1	7-7-3-1	4-4-1-1	L2
Washington	35	18	15	0	2	104	106	38	12-5-0-1	6-10-0-1	5-4-0-1	W1
Buffalo	36	17	16	2	1	97	106	37	9-9-2-1	8-7-0-0	3-5-2-0	L1
Montreal	37	14	16	2	5	94	103	35	5-7-2-4	9-9-0-1	3-5-0-2	W1
Tampa Bay	35	15	17	1	2	95	117	33	9-5-0-0	6-12-1-2	4-5-1-0	W1
Carolina	38	12	20	4	2	97	127	30	8-10-0-2	4-10-4-0	4-4-2-0	L1
NY Islanders	34	11	17	4	2	77	111	28	6-9-3-0	5-8-1-2	3-6-1-0	L3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Chicago	36	23	9	1	3	122	103	50	13-2-0-3	10-7-1-0	8-1-0-1	W2
d-Vancouver	36	22	12	0	2	120	88	46	11-5-0-1	11-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	W1
d-San Jose	33	19	11	2	1	97	80	41	12-7-1-0	7-4-1-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Detroit	36	23	12	1	0	118	81	47	14-2-1-0	9-10-0-0	7-3-0-0	W2
St. Louis	36	21	11	0	4	94	80	46	14-3-0-1	7-8-0-3	7-2-0-1	L1
Minnesota	37	20	12	2	3	88	86	45	10-5-1-2	10-7-1-1	3-5-0-2	L7
Dallas	35	20	14	0	1	95	101	41	11-5-0-1	9-9-0-0	5-5-0-0	L1
Nashville	36	18	14	3	1	96	103	40	9-6-2-1	9-8-1-0	6-4-0-0	L2
Calgary	37	18	15	2	2	92	99	40	10-5-1-1	8-10-1-1	6-2-1-1	W4
Phoenix	36	18	15	1	2	95	96	39	7-8-1-1	11-7-0-1	4-6-0-0	L2
Los Angeles	36	17	14	2	3	80	88	39	10-9-0-1	7-5-2-2	4-5-0-1	W1
Colorado	38	19	18	1	0	101	111	39	12-10-0-0	7-8-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Edmonton	35	15	17	0	3	96	96	33	10-6-0-2	5-11-0-1	3-7-0-0	L1
Anaheim	35	10	19	2	4	83	115	26	7-9-1-0	3-10-1-4	3-6-0-1	W1
Columbus	36	9	22	1	4	87	123	23	6-10-1-2	3-12-0-2	2-6-1-1	L6

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
New Jersey 3 Buffalo 1
Washington 4 N.Y. Rangers 1
Minnesota at Nashville
Los Angeles at Chicago
Boston at Phoenix
Vancouver at San Jose
Tuesday's results
Calgary 2 Columbus 1 (SO)
Montreal 6 Ottawa 2
Winnipeg 4 Colorado 1
Florida 5 Toronto 3
Detroit 3 St. Louis 2
Pittsburgh 4 Carolina 2
Tampa Bay 5 Philadelphia 1

Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Calgary at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Columbus at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Buffalo at Washington, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

PANTHERS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 3

First Period
1. Florida, Gudbranson 2 (Kennedy) 1:57
Penalty — Garrison Fla (hooking) 14:35.
Second Period
2. Toronto, Grabovski 9 (Franson, Kulemin) 2:11
3. Florida, Thomas 1 (Dadonov, Cullen) 2:30
4. Florida, Garrison 11 (Campbell, Repik) 4:13 (pp)
5. Florida, Versteeg 17 (Campbell, Kopecky) 6:55 (pp)
6. Toronto, Phaneuf 5 (Kessel, Lupul) 9:34
Penalties — Aulie Tor (cross-checking) 3:17, Grabovski Tor (slashing) 5:14, Toronto bench (too many men; served by MacArthur) 5:54.
Third Period
7. Toronto, Grabovski 10 (MacArthur, Franson) 9:17 (pp)
8. Florida, Fleischmann 13 (Bradley, Campbell) 11:44
Penalties — Campbell Fla (holding) 2:41, Fleischmann Fla (hooking) 8:03, Cullen Fla (delay of game) 12:30.

Shots

Toronto	11	13	8	32
Florida	4	13	9	26

Goal (shots-saves) — Toronto: Reimer (8-5), Gustavsson (L,9-7-0)(4:13 second)(18-16); Florida: Theodore (W,14-8-4).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Toronto: 1-4; Florida: 2-3.
Referees — Steve Kozari, Justin St. Pierre.
Linesmen — Tim Nowak, Pierre Racicot.
Attendance — 20,406 (17,040) at Sunrise, Fla.

CANADIENS 6, SENATORS 2

First Period
1. Ottawa, Smith 10 (Gonchar, Greening) 1:42
2. Montreal, Eller 4 (Darche, Diaz) 5:08 (sh)
3. Montreal, Plekanec 8 (Darche, Diaz) 12:39
4. Montreal, Cammalleri 7 (Leblanc, Diaz) 15:25
Penalties — Plekanec Mtl (tripping) 3:38, Pacioretty Mtl, Lee Ott (fighting) 6:31.
Second Period
5. Montreal, Leblanc 2 (Cammalleri, Gill) 2:03
6. Montreal, Subban 3 (Cole) 5:53
7. Ottawa, Spezza 13 (Michalek, Alfredsson) 6:49
Penalties — Leblanc Mtl (roughing), Gonchar Ott (cross-checking) 4:16, Butler Ott (hooking) 8:55, Moen Mtl, Foligno Ott (roughing) 12:30, Gill Mtl (high-sticking) 12:30.
Third Period
8. Montreal, Cole 14 (Plekanec, Subban) 14:58 (pp)
Penalties — Subban Mtl (tripping) 0:34, Kuba Ott (hooking) 4:11, Smith Ott (elbowing) 13:48, Foligno Ott (high-sticking) 14:34.

Shots

Montreal	5	16	7	28
Ottawa	13	16	6	35

Goal (shots-saves) — Montreal: Price (W,13-12-7); Ottawa: Anderson (L,15-11-3)(7-3), Auld (2:03 second; 21-19).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Montreal: 1-4; Ottawa: 0-3.
Referees — Brad Meier, Kyle Rehman. **Linesmen** — Steve Barton, Scott Driscoll.
Attendance — 20,500 (19,153) at Ottawa.

FOOTBALL

NCAA BOWL GLANCE

Yesterday's results
MILITARY BOWL
At Washington
Toledo 42 Air Force 41
HOLIDAY BOWL
At San Diego
Texas (7-5) vs. California (7-5)
Today's games
CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL
At Orlando, Fla.
Florida State (8-4) vs. Notre Dame (8-4), 5:30 p.m.
ALAMO BOWL
At San Antonio
Baylor (9-3) vs. Washington (7-5), 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
ARMED FORCES BOWL
At Dallas
Tulsa (8-4) vs. Brigham Young (9-3), Noon
PINSTRIPE BOWL
At Bronx, N.Y.
Rutgers (8-4) vs. Iowa State (6-6), 3:30 p.m.
MUSIC CITY BOWL
At Nashville, Tenn.
Miss. State (6-6) vs. Wake Forest (6-6), 6:40 p.m.
INSIGHT BOWL
At Tempe, Ariz.
Oklahoma (9-3) vs. Iowa (7-5), 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL
At Houston
Texas A&M (6-6) vs. Northwestern (6-6), Noon
SUN BOWL
At El Paso, Texas
Georgia Tech (8-4) vs. Utah (7-5), 2 p.m.
LIBERTY BOWL
At Memphis, Tenn.
Vanderbilt (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), 3:30 p.m.
FIGHT HUNGER BOWL
At San Francisco
UCLA (6-7) vs. Illinois (6-6), 3:30 p.m.
CHICK-FIL-A BOWL
At Atlanta
Virginia (8-4) vs. Auburn (7-5), 7:30 p.m.

HOCKEY

2012 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

GROUP A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Sweden	2	1	1	0	0	13	7	5
Russia	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	3
Slovakia	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	3
Switzerland	2	0	0	1	1	3	7	1
Latvia	2	0	0	0	2	5	12	0

GROUP B

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Canada	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13**	**1**	**6**
Czech Republic	2	1	0	0	1	7	5	3
U.S.	2	1	0	0	1	12	7	3
Finland	2	1	0	0	1	5	9	3
Denmark	2	0	0	0	2	3	18	0

Note: Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime win and one for an overtime loss.
Yesterday's results
At Edmonton
Canada 5 Czech Republic 0
Finland 4 U.S. 1
At Calgary
Sweden 4 Switzerland 3 (SO)
Slovakia vs. Russia
Tuesday's results
At Edmonton
Czech Republic 7 Denmark 0
At Calgary
Slovakia 3 Latvia 1
Tonight's games
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Russia vs. Latvia, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
At Edmonton
Czech Republic vs. U.S., 3:30 p.m.
Denmark vs. Finland, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Slovakia vs. Sweden, 5:30 p.m.
Latvia vs. Switzerland, 10 p.m.

SPENGLER CUP

At Davos, Switzerland
PRELIMINARY ROUND
Yesterday's results
Davos 8 **Canada 1**
Dinamo Riga 3 Wolfsburg 1
Today's games
QUARTER-FINALS
All Times Eastern
QF1 — Kloten vs. Vitkovice, 9 a.m.
QF2 — **Canada** vs. Wolfsburg, 2:15 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
SEMIFINALS
Davos vs. Kloten-Vitkovice Winner, 9 a.m.
Riga vs. **Canada**-Wolfsburg Winner, 2:15 p.m.

2012 WORLD UNDER-17 CHALLENGE

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Today's games
All Times Eastern
At Windsor, Ont.
Ontario vs. Germany, 2 p.m.
At Tecumseh, Ont.
Quebec vs. Atlantic, 2 p.m.
Pacific vs. West, 7 p.m.
At LaSalle, Ont.
U.S. vs. Czech Republic, 7 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	1	0	1.000	—
New Jersey	1	1	.500	½
Toronto	1	1	.500	½
Philadelphia	0	1	.000	1
Boston	0	2	.000	1½

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	3	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	2	0	1.000	½
Orlando	1	1	.500	1½
Charlotte	1	1	.500	1½
Washington	0	2	.000	2½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	2	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	1	1	.500	1
Chicago	1	1	.500	1
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	1
Detroit	0	2	.000	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	1	0	1.000	—
New Orleans	1	0	1.000	—
Houston	0	1	.000	1
Memphis	0	1	.000	1
Dallas	0	2	.000	1½

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	2	0	1.000	—
Portland	2	0	1.000	—
Denver	1	0	1.000	½
Utah	0	1	.000	1½
Minnesota	0	2	.000	2

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	1	0	1.000	—
Sacramento	1	1	.500	½
Golden State	1	1	.500	½
L.A. Lakers	1	2	.333	1
Phoenix	0	1	.000	1

Last night's results
Indiana 90 Toronto 85
Miami 96 Charlotte 95
Atlanta 101 Washington 83
Cleveland 105 Detroit 89
Boston at New Orleans
Oklahoma City at Memphis
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio
Utah at Denver
Philadelphia at Phoenix
New York at Golden State
Tuesday's results
Atlanta 106 New Jersey 70
Miami 115 Boston 107
Milwaukee 98 Minnesota 95
Portland 101 Sacramento 79
L.A. Lakers 96 Utah 71
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
New Jersey at Orlando, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10 p.m.
New York at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Miami at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Houston at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Utah, 9 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NFL

WEEK 17

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	464	321
N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	360	344
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	351	385
Miami	5	10	0	.333	310	296

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	5	0	.667	359	255
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	302	295
Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	224	316
Indianapolis	2	13	0	.133	230	411

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	354	250
x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	312	218
Cincinnati	9	6	0	.600	328	299
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	209	294

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	7	0	.533	306	383
Oakland	8	7	0	.533	333	395
San Diego	7	8	0	.467	368	351
Kansas City	6	9	0	.400	205	335

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	7	0	.533	363	386
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	355	316
Philadelphia	7	8	0	.467	362	318
Washington	5	10	0	.333	278	333

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New Orleans	12	3	0	.800	502	322
x-Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	357	326
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	389	384
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	263	449

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	14	1	0	.933	515	318
x-Detroit	10	5	0	.667	433	342
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	336	328
Minnesota	3	12	0	.200	327	432

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	12	3	0	.800	346	202
Seattle	7	8	0	.467	301	292
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	289	328
St. Louis	2	13	0	.133	166	373

x — clinched playoff spot
y — clinched division
Sunday's games
All Times Eastern
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 4:15 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.

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Argos' past extinguished in fire

Club memorabilia lost in weekend blaze ‘There were a lot of memories in that building,’ says team consultant

The Toronto Argonauts may be able to rebuild the part of their training facility destroyed in a Christmas Eve fire, but the history that went up in flames can't be replaced.

"I went down there the other day and almost cried," said Argos consultant Nick Volpe.

Destroyed in the Mississauga fire was memorabilia that included signed photos going back to the early '50s.

"Now they're all gone and you can't replace that stuff," said Volpe.

The Argos are assessing what else was lost in the fire, which consumed one of the portable structures that housed meeting rooms and coaches' offices. Most of the team's essential documents were backed up on computers.

The locker-room, which houses the players, appears to have escaped untouched, though it is being assessed for smoke damage.

Peel police say they do not consider the fire suspicious. A spokesman for the Ontario Fire Marshal's office said its investigation is closed because damage done in extinguishing the blaze was too extensive.

Until insurance investigations are completed, the team is not commenting on whether it will rebuild or move elsewhere.

"At this time, we have not yet determined future plans for the Argonauts practice facility," the team said on its website. "While the fire department investigates ... we will have no further comment on the matter." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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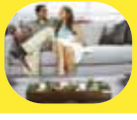

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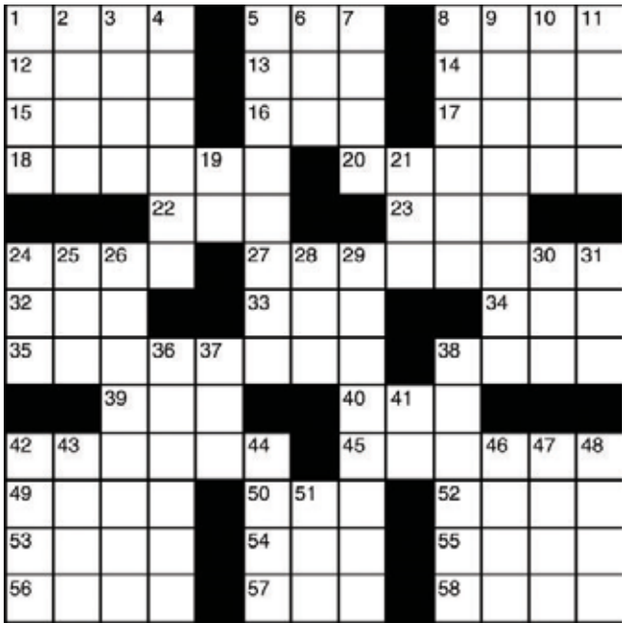

Across

1 Dillon or Damon
5 Society newbie
8 Sleeping
12 Continental coin
13 Moray or conger
14 Existed
15 Use a swizzle stick
16 To and —
17 Slave to crosswords?
18 1970s rock band, Mott the —
20 Complained
22 Scull tool
23 Farming (Abbr.)
24 Despot
27 Disparaging words
32 Alley follower
33 Diarist Anais
34 "The Matrix" role
35 Highly rated
38 Mulligan, for one
39 Help
40 Storm center
42 Dadaist Duchamp
45 Swelling wave
49 Duel tool
50 Work with
52 Green land
53 Bloke
54 Sister
55 Pet shop purchase
56 Bohemian
57 Understand
58 Walked (on)

Down

1 Netting
2 Car
3 Small combo
4 Lethargy
5 Respectful
6 Eterne
7 Online journal
8 "Anchors —"
9 Sprinkled, old-style
10 Sea eagle
11 Titleholder's document
19 Scale member
21 Snitch
24 Barracks bed
25 Menagerie
26 Obvious
28 Snapshot
29 Belonging naturally
30 Golf prop
31 Boar's mate
36 Fine point
37 Praise in verse
38 Choose
41 Rocky Balboa's interjection
42 Humongous
43 Mimic
44 Breather
46 Perjurer
47 Therefore
48 Oboe insert
51 Seek restitution

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

	5			2		3		4
8				9	7			
			4					1
			6	8	9	1	4	
				4				
	2	8	1	5	3			
5					8			
			9	3				7
9		6		1			8	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	4	1	2	5	6	3	7	8
7	8	5	9	1	3	6	2	4
6	3	2	4	8	7	9	1	5
8	6	3	1	2	4	7	5	9
1	2	7	5	6	9	4	8	3
5	9	4	3	7	8	1	6	2
2	1	9	7	4	5	8	3	6
4	7	8	6	3	2	5	9	1
3	5	6	8	9	1	2	4	7

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Kareem, I love you, you're a great person and you make me happier than depressed. This being said, I don't know what the next step is ... We're only 25 ... I hope I can convince you to wait it out a couple years. You are so beautiful that I can't let you get away so easily. p.s. You talk a lot on the phone at 2 a.m. and I am dead tired.
KINZA

Meghan, well baby, Christmas has come and gone. I am so happy you came and met my family and were able to spend five days with me. When I saw you walking down those stairs at the airport my heart melted again ... I dropped you off at the airport this morning and it was tough to let go of you. I'll be back in two weeks to pick up where we left off. I love you with all my heart and soul forever baby. **STEVEN**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Start thinking about how you want to improve your life in 2012. Your career is a good place to start.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You need to broaden your horizons, especially if you are one of those Taureans who generally prefer to stay close to home.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Your feelings may be intense but you are advised to keep them to yourself, at least for the time being.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 It may be true that opposites attract but that does not mean they are always good for each other.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You need to get organized because your time and energy will be more limited than usual today and into the new year.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 There is considerable excitement in the air at the moment and you can sense that something out of the ordinary is going to happen.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Today's Sun-Pluto link will make you more abrasive than usual but in a way that's good because it's time you had a heart-to-heart with certain individuals.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The tempo of life will pick up dramatically over the next few days.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Wait a few days before making plans concerning your money situation

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 A Sun-Pluto union in your sign today means you are determined to end the old year on a high

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You may be at the bottom part of a cycle at the moment but the good news is you will soon be on the way up again

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You may not be able to explain why the world suddenly looks brighter and sunnier, but it does.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

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NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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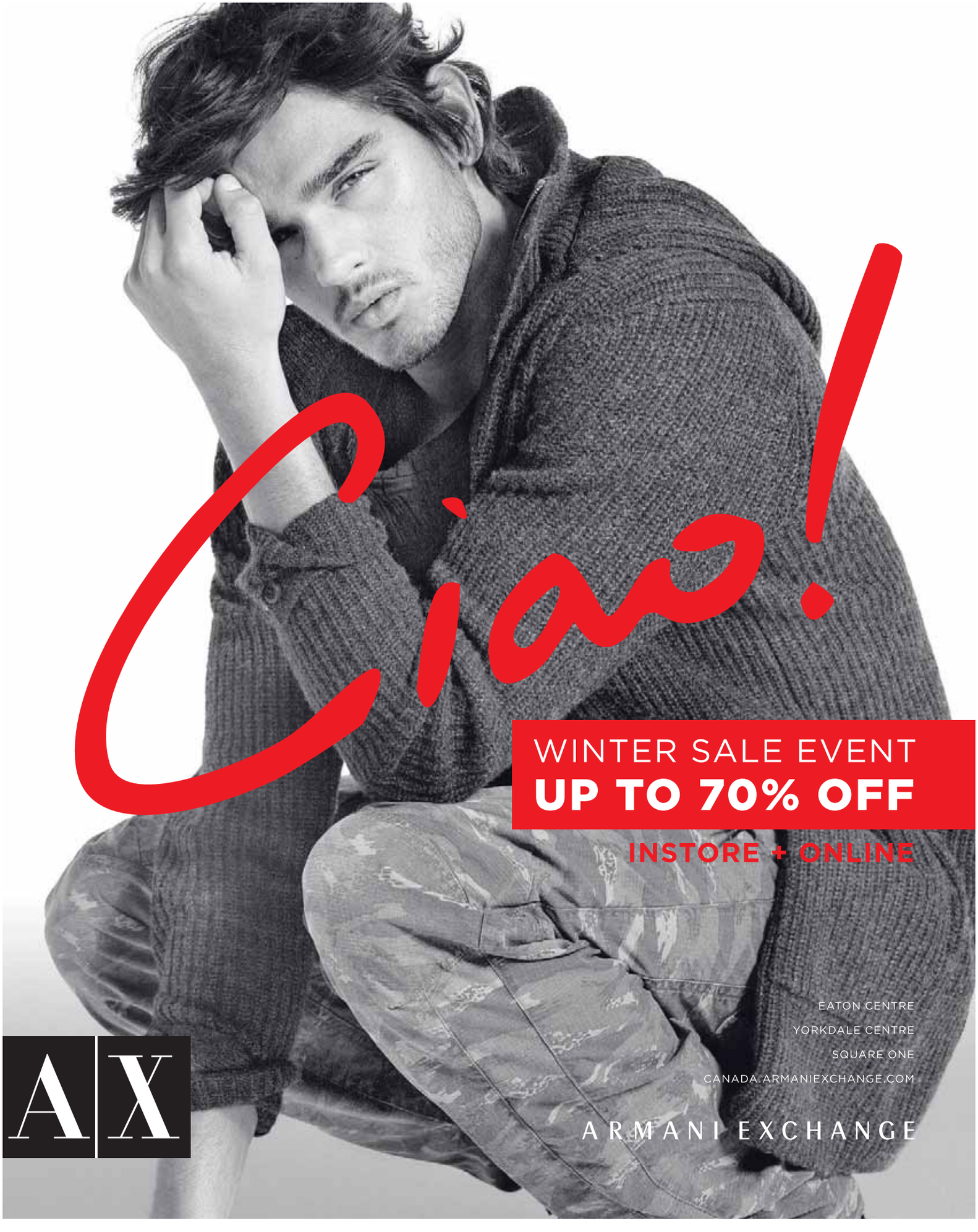
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